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## A NEW SPECIES OF *CHAMAESYCE* (EUPHORBIACEAE) FROM THE BAHAMAS

The recent surge of interest in the flora of the Bahama Islands has provided material from locations which are relatively poorly known botanically. Among collections from Inagua is a *Chamaesyce* which is distinct from anything previously described from the New World.

### *Chamaesyce proctorii* Burch, sp. nov.

Herba perennis ex caudice; ramis supra tomentosis subtus glabris. Folia opposita; lamina ovata-oblonga, serrata; stipulae connatae, ciliatae. Cyathia solitaria; involucrium campanulatum; glandulae atropurpureae, appendices albae, crenatae. Capsula tomentosa, ovoidea; semina truncato-ovoidea, cineracea, parietibus rugosis.

Perennial herb, prostrate from a somewhat swollen rootstock, forming mats to 2 dm diam., usually with a red or purplish cast to all parts; stem to 0.5 mm diam., tomentose on the upper surface, branching throughout but with most laterals condensed, not rooting at the nodes. Leaves coriaceous; blade ovate-oblong, 6–8 mm long, 4–5 mm wide, the base oblique, the surface minutely papillate, variably tomentose, the margin coarsely serrate at least in the upper  $\frac{1}{3}$ , the apex rounded to acute; petiole ca. 1 mm long; stipules joined at the base, triangular or somewhat bifid, densely ciliate particularly on the adaxial surface. Cyathia solitary at the nodes of condensed laterals, campanulate, to 1.2 mm diam. at the mouth, densely tomentose without, ciliate within; glands transversely elliptic, deep purple, the appendages white, equalling the glands, the margin deeply crenate; staminate flowers 12–18 per cyathia; ovary densely tomentose, the styles free to the base, bifid for half their length. Capsule densely tomentose or glabrescent, broadly ovoid, ca. 1.2 mm long and broad, scarcely lobed, the angles somewhat rounded; seed truncate-ovoid, to 0.8 mm long, 0.6 mm wide just above base, the ventral angle obscure, the others well marked, the faces convex, rugose, ashen.

TYPE: BAHAMAS. INAGUA: Vic. of Smith's Thatch Pond (also known as Lantern Head Pond), in shaded sandy soil, 18 Feb. 1973, *Proctor & Gillis* 33336 (MO, holotype; GH, IJ, isotypes).

Additional collections: BAHAMAS. INAGUA: Beyond airport, 15 Jan. 1964, *Dunbar* 332 (BM). Beyond quarantine stations, 18 Feb. 1964, *Dunbar* 376 (A, BM).

This species is easily distinguished from the other Bahamian taxa growing in limestone that share its reddish cast and papillose surface. All the varieties of *Chamaesyce lecheoides* (Millsp.) Millsp. have glabrous capsules, while the more northern *C. cayensis* (Millsp.) Millsp., which is pubescent, does not have the ciliate stipules of *C. proctorii*. The plant has a strong superficial resemblance to *C. helwigii* (Urb. & Ekm.) Burch, described from a single Haitian collection, but differs from this species in having smaller seeds, markedly ciliate stipules, denser short pubescence on the capsule, deep purple cyathial glands, and well-developed glandular appendages.

The epithet *proctorii* was chosen in recognition of the extensive contributions of Mr. George R. Proctor of the Institute of Jamaica to our knowledge of the flora of the whole Caribbean region.—Derek Burch, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

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## CHROMOSOME COUNTS IN *GRIELUM* AND *CERCIS*

*Grielum sinuatum* L.  $2n = 14$ . SOUTH AFRICA. CAPE PROVINCE: Seed ex Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden and cult. Missouri Botanical Garden Curtis 100 (MO).

The genus *Grielum* traditionally has been placed in the family Rosaceae (Bentham & Hooker, 1865: 625–626; Bremekamp & Obermeyer, 1935: 415–416; Thorne, 1968). *Grielum* and the closely allied genera *Neurada* (*N. procumbens* :  $2n = 14$ , Hagerup, 1932; Murin & Chaudhri, 1970) and *Neuradopsis* (uncounted) are generally placed in the subfamily Neuradoideae. The diploid chromosome number obtained from root tip squash preparations of *G. sinuatum* has been determined as  $2n = 14$ , offering additional confirmation of placement in the Neuradoideae. A previous report of *N. procumbens* :  $2n = 12$  (Murbeck, 1916) is most likely incorrect, based on the count reported here and those discussed above. Erdtman (1952) concluded, based on a study of pollen morphology, that a close and singular relationship exists between *Grielum* and *Neurada* as compared to other members of the Rosaceae. However, Erdtman retained both genera in the Rosaceae. The external morphology of *Grielum* and *Neurada* are very similar (Bremekamp & Obermeyer, 1935) and suggest a relationship with the Rosoideae, as does the base chromosome number of  $x = 7$  for Rosoideae. Takhtajan (1969: 223) and Merxmüller (1968) have accorded Neuradoideae family status, after Agardh (1858: 228), with Takhtajan suggesting that the family Neuradaceae is related to the subfamily Rosoideae. While elevation of the Neuradoideae to family status might seem a logical conclusion based on pollen morphology, external morphology and chromosome numbers do not seem to justify this change in rank, nor does such a change offer more valuable insight into the evolution or systematics of the group.